

Sidewalk Improvement Planning

Interlachen Boulevard (Mirror Lakes Drive to Vernon Avenue)

March 17, 2015

Dear Resident:

For several years residents have expressed a desire to construct additional sidewalk on Interlachen Boulevard. This continues to be one of the most discussed missing sidewalk segments in Edina because it will provide safe pedestrian access from residential areas in northern Edina to Vernon Avenue and destinations like the Grandview district. Additionally, this sidewalk is on the City's Sidewalk Facilities Map which was approved by the City Council on Dec. 2 and is also in the City's approved Active (Safe) Routes to School Comprehensive Plan.

Currently, there is an existing sidewalk on the south side of Interlachen Boulevard from Bedford Avenue to William Avenue. Interlachen Boulevard is a "collector street" in the City's comprehensive plan, and it carries approximately 10,000 vehicles per day at speeds that often exceed 34 miles per hour (2013 data). For these reasons – in addition to the Active Routes to School recommendation – staff is evaluating the feasibility of continuing the sidewalk east to Vernon Avenue and west as far as Mirror Lakes Drive later this year.

This letter is to inform you of these planning and preliminary engineering activities, and to ask for your input regarding a potential sidewalk at this location.

Staff is planning to hold a community engagement meeting later this spring or early this summer; invitations for this meeting will be sent out at a later date.

Please note that sidewalks are no longer special assessed and are now funded by the Pedestrian Cyclist and Safety (PACS) Fund.

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact me at 952-826-0322 or mnolan@EdinaMN.gov.

Regards,

Mark K. Nolan, AICP Transportation Planner